to Members, including Members of Parliament, as per their entitlement. However, if any specific case is brought to notice, the same could be looked into.

RMS postal rates for newspapers

1292. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have slabs for RMS postal rates for newspapers according to their prices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No proposal to fix slabs for Postal rates for newspapers according to their prices is at present under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Postage rates for registered newspaper are fixed under 'First Schedule' to the Indian Post Office Act 1898 which provides for fixation of Postage rates for registered newspapers according to their weight.

Manufacture of fibre optics

1293. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to use fibre optics extensively for strengthening the communication system of the country; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have plans to manufacture fibre optics in India in public sector, joint sector or private sector; if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a technology to manufacture fibre optics in the country has been developed at home; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Optical fibre cables are planned to be introduced in the 7th Five Year Plan covering a route length of about 6200 kms in long distance network and 850 kms for the local network.

(b) Government of India have planned to manufacture fibre optics in India in public sector as per details below:

M/s Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporations.	Optical fibre cables & Opto-electronics equipment.
M/s HCL/M/s ITI	Optical fibre cable by M/s HCL Opto-Electronics equipments by M/s ITI.

(c) No, Sir.

Prices of essential medicines

1294. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3512 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of State for Chemicals stated in Press Conference on 18th December, 1986 that due to higher mark up the prices of essential medicines will go upto 12.5 per cent;